

*f3 write*

~~a hollow tubular female connector having an annular recess adapted to rotatably receive the outer surface and the first end; and~~

at least first and second annular bearing means located between the outer surface and the recess to facilitate rotation of the male and female connectors about the central axis;

wherein the diameter of each bearing means is larger than the diameter of each adjacent bearing means closer to the first end of the male connector; and

means positioned between the first end and the annular recess to seal between the male and female connectors;

wherein the male and female connectors form a flow passage of the swivel joint.

#### Remarks

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR §1.84(i). A proposed drawing amendment showing Figure 3 in two parts as Figures 3A and 3B is enclosed herewith. Approval of the amendment is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 3-5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. Claims 4 and 5 depend on claim 3. In lieu of rewriting claim 3 in independent form, claim 1 (which is the base claim for claim 3) has been


amended to include the limitations of claim 3. Therefore, claim 1 is submitted as allowable. Claim 4 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Therefore, claims 4 and 5 are submitted as allowable.

Claims 1, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Phillips or Ashton in view of Himes. In light of the amendment to claim 1, this claim is submitted as allowable. Claims 19 and 20 have also been amended to include limitations, in varying degrees, directed to the seal between the male and female connectors. These claims are therefore also submitted as allowable over Phillips, Ashton and Himes.

Claims 12 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Phillips or Ashton in view of Himes as applied to claims 1, 19 and 20, and further in view of Press or DT 1,907,428. Claims 12 and 18 depend from claim 1. In light of the present amendment to claim 1, claims 12 and 18 are submitted as allowable.

For the foregoing reasons, claims 1, 4-5 and 12-20 are submitted as allowable. Favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Drawings  
 approved by  
 examiner  
 1/18/97

FIG. 3

210 →

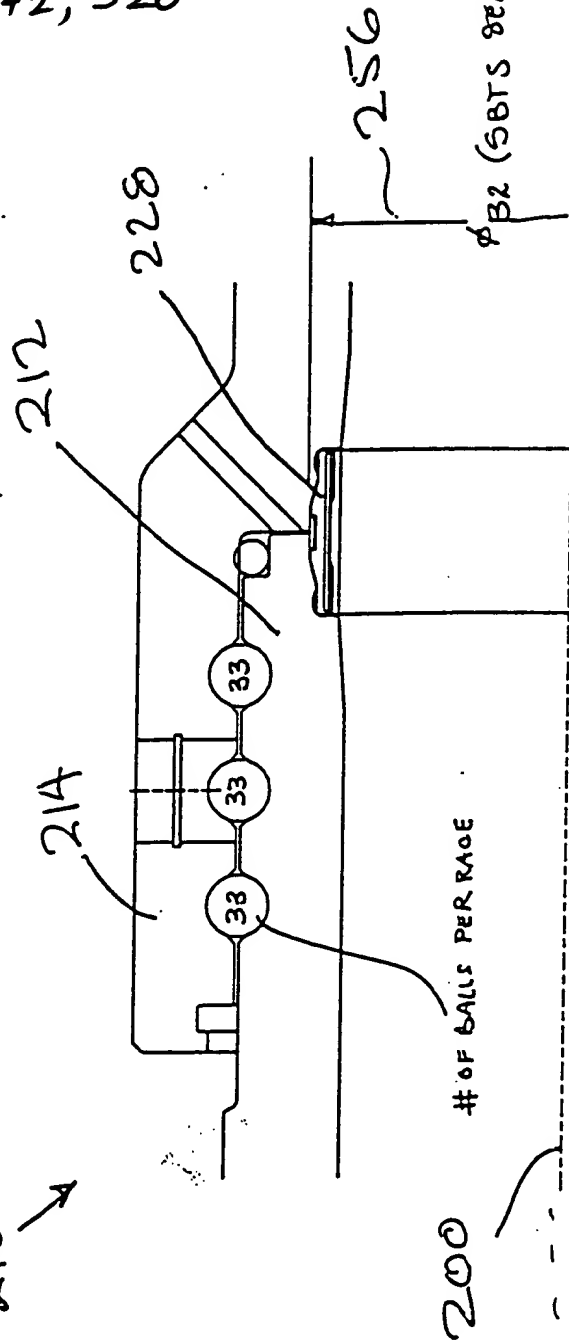


Fig. 3B

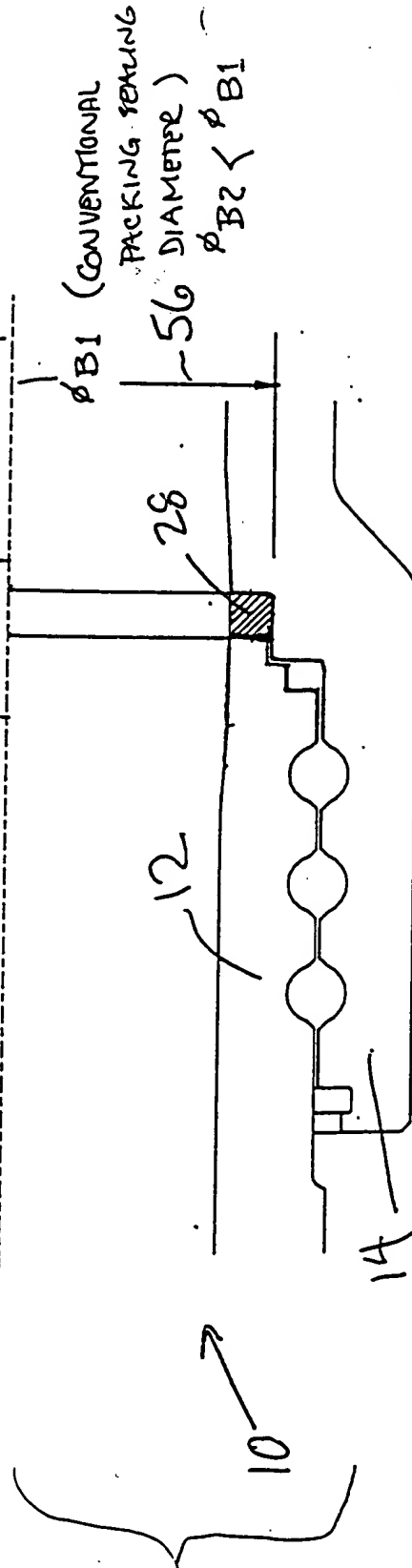


Fig. 3A  
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